



# CCM 2015 Testimony

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## ***JUDICIARY COMMITTEE***

March 16, 2015

The Connecticut Conference of Municipalities (CCM) is Connecticut's statewide association of towns and cities and the voice of local government - your partners in governing Connecticut. Our members represent 156 towns and cities, representing over 95 percent of Connecticut's population. We appreciate the opportunity to testify on bills of interest to towns and cities.

### **SB 1087 "An Act Concerning Sexual Offender Registration Laws, Residency Restrictions for Registered Sexual Offenders and Reentry Housing"**

CCM supports SB 1087, in particular Section 46 which would require the Commissioner of Corrections (DOC) to notify the Local CEO of the agencies intent to operate a halfway house, group home, mental health facility or other community residence in the municipality.

Currently, local CEOs are often unaware when one of these facilities is established in their municipality. This information will be useful in knowing the placement of these offenders and ensuring they are not near vulnerable individuals, such as schools, day cares, senior centers. While placement of an offender may not currently be near these vulnerable individuals, local CEOs may have a better knowledge of future development plans.

There are a variety of other housing facilities operated by state agencies other than the DOC, such as Judicial Department facilities or Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services (DMHAS) facilities administered for the Judicial Department. CCM would suggest those agencies be included in the requirement to also provide notification to Local CEOs when proposing to develop a new facility within the municipality.

In addition, CCM would request that the bill be amended to allow Local CEOs to not only receive this information, but also the opportunity to provide input on the facility location, and make that information a substantial part in determining whether to go forward with the proposed facility.

CCM urges the Committee to favorably report SB 1087.

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If you have any questions, please contact Mike Muszynski, Senior Legislative Associate of CCM at [mmuszynski@ccm-ct.org](mailto:mmuszynski@ccm-ct.org) or (203) 500-7556.